

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release September 8, 1978

Levitt 202/343-5634

PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE IN CITIES AND SUBURBS TOLD IN NEW PUBLICATION

A new publication that describes how to create and maintain better environments for both wildlife and people in urban and suburban areas was announced today by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Urban Wildlife Research Center, Ellicott City, Maryland.

The publication, "Planning for Wildlife in Cities and Suburbs," is a 64-page manual which focuses on regional and on-site planning for wildlife, particularly in undeveloped areas. Urban core and other developed areas are also considered. Many of the same general approaches discussed in the booklet can be applied in the backyards of private homes.

Historically, urban planners and developers have given little attention to wildlife considerations. Yet, these individuals often unwittingly are wildlife managers in that they set the stage for habitat preservation, improvement, or deterioration in their planning and design activities.

The booklet emphasizes that providing for wildlife has been shown to improve the environmental quality of a residential development, as well as increase the value. It explains how, with little change in the planning and design process--and usually with little cost--conditions for fish and wildlife in both cities and suburbs can be improved.

The manual will be useful to planners, developers, administrators, and decisionmakers who may have little knowledge of wildlife requirements or little understanding of wildlife values. Additional sources of expert information and assistance are given including regional listings of selected plants ranked according to their value to wildlife.

The booklet was prepared by the Urban Wildlife Research Center for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Biological Services, and was cosponsored by the American Society of Planning Officials, Chicago, Ill.

Copies are available from the Information Transfer Coordinator, Office of Biological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at \$2.40 each by referring to Stock Number 024-010-00471-1.